

Message Text

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21/13

ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 PRS-01 /005 W

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O R 170505Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3823

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 12640

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. ON FRIDAY ELEMENTS OF THE SEVENTH DIVISION RELIEVED A GOVERNMENT UNIT WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN ENCIRCLED BY ENEMY FORCES AT TRAPEANG TNAOT. AS A RESULT OF THIS ACTION, THE ROAD LEADING FROM TRAPEANG TNAOT TO PHNOM BASET IS NOW OPEN. TWENTY-ONE KHMER COMMUNISTS WERE KILLED IN THE OPERATION AND GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT.

2. ENEMY FORCES LAUNCHED TWO ATTACKS AGAINST THE VILLAGE OF VIHEAR SUOR AND TWO ATTACKS AGAINST GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE AREA. SHELLINGS OCCURRED IN THE VICINITY OF PREY VENG, SIEMREAP (ANGKOR) KOMPONG CHAM, KAMPOT, AND O SANDAN.

3. DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS THE ENEMY HAS CONTINUED TO EXERT PRESSURE ON THE SOUTHERN PERIMETER OF TAKEO. GOVERNMENT FORCES

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SUFFERED LIGHT TO MODERATE CASUALTIES IN SEVERAL ENGAGEMENTS.

4. ON HIGHWAY FOUR, LINKING PHNOM PENH WITH THE PORT OF KOMPONG SOM, GOVERNMENT FORCES ENGAGED IN ROAD CLEARING OPERATIONS RECEIVED LIGHT CASUALTIES FROM ENEMY SHELLINGS AND GROUND ATTACKS.

5. A SUPPLY CONVOY ARRIVED AT PHNOM PENH ON FRIDAY. SEVERAL SHIPS OF THE CONVOY RECEIVED ENEMY FIRE DURING THE VOYAGE UP THE MEKONG RIVER, BUT THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. CARGO INCLUDES 3,900 TONS OF RICE, AS WELL AS FUEL AND AMMUNITION.

6. THE KHMER HIGH COMMAND ANNOUNCED ON FRIDAY THAT THE AIRPORT AT KOMPOJG CHAM IS NOW OPEN. THE ROAD CONNECTING THE AIRPORT WITH THE CITY HAS ALSO BEEN SECURED, ACCORDING TO COLONEL AM RONG, HIGH COMMAND SPOKESMAN.

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